

ഉത്തരം

(എ) തിരുവനന്തപുരം ഡിസ്ട്രിക്റ്റിൽ സഹകരണമേഖലയിൽ ഒരു പഞ്ചസാര ഫാക്ടറി സ്ഥാപിക്കുന്നതിന് ഇപ്പോൾ സാധ്യതയില്ല.

(ബി) ഉടിക്കുന്നില്ല.

ചേളാരി—പരപ്പനങ്ങാടി റോഡിന്റെ പണി.

59. [6] ശ്രീ. കെ. അയ്യപ്പൻ : താഴെ കാണുന്ന ചോദ്യങ്ങൾക്ക് പൊതുവകുപ്പുമന്ത്രി സദയം മറുപടി നൽകുമോ :

(എ) ചേളാരി—പരപ്പനങ്ങാടി റോഡിന്റെയും പ്രസ്തുത റോഡിലെ തയ്യിലക്കടവ് പാലത്തിന്റെയും പണി ഇനിയും ആരംഭിക്കാത്തതിന് കാരണമെന്തു് ;

(ബി) 1964-65-ൽ ഇവകളുടെ പണി ആരംഭിക്കുവാൻ വേണ്ട നടപടികൾ എടുക്കുമോ ?

ഉത്തരം.

(എ, ബി) ധനമന്ത്രിയുടെ കാരണം ഈ പണികൾ മാറ്റിവെച്ചിരിക്കുകയാണ്. 1964-65-ൽ ഈ പണികൾ ആരംഭിക്കുവാൻ നിർവാഹമില്ല.

Mr Speaker : Order, order. Question hour is over.

CALLING ATTENTION UNDER RULE 61

Closure of uneconomic schools in the State.

Mr. Speaker : I have received two notices under Rule 61, one from Shri Hamid Ali Shemnad and the other from Shri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar. I call upon Shri Shemnad to 9 a. m. make his statement.

Shri Hamid Ali Shemnad : Speaker Sir, may I draw the attention of the hon. Chief Minister to a very important matter of urgent public importance with regard to the closure of uneconomic schools in Kerala State. Sir, many schools in Malabar area were considered to be uneconomical as they did not have sufficient strength in classes and the Government were thinking that some of the Schools should be closed down, because they were running at a loss. The hon. Chief Minister was kind and good enough to convene a Conference of the M. L. As. of the Malabar area. Many of the Members attended that meeting. After that a list was drawn up. The District Educational Officers and Heads of Departments of the Education Department also attended the Conference. A final list of schools which were uneconomic was drawn up. There was no sign of progress. So, that Conference decided to close down those schools. Many of us pleaded to the hon. Minister for Education that some of the schools, even though they are uneconomic, considering the backwardness of the area and the geographical conditions of the village, might be allowed to continue and he was good enough to allow some of the uneconomic schools to continue. A final list was drawn up and those schools were ordered to be closed down. We all thought that it was the final list and that there would not be any further closing down of the school on account of uneconomic strength. But today we find that some Educational authorities have issued notices to many schools in

Nadapuram area, and 16 schools in Kasaragod, Manjeshwar and Badagara. Educational Officers have sent closure notices to some 60 schools saying that these schools do not have effective strength. So recognition of these schools would be withdrawn. If this is going to be materialised that would greatly affect, that would be a hurdle to the progress of backward areas of Malabar and that would definitely effect the progress of education of the backward people of Malabar. Many of the schools situate in backward areas and where predominantly backward people like Ezhavas, Muslims, Thiyyas live and in Kasargod also, the condition is the same. If those schools are to be closed down that would greatly affect the progress of these illiterate people. Further I may submit that discretionary powers should not be given to the Educational authorities to close down schools when they like. At least there should not be any more closing of schools in Malabar area. These schools have a standing of 20, 25 or 30 years. If these are to be closed down in the name of effective strength that would definitely do great harm to the people of Malabar area.

Another important fact to which I want to draw the attention of hon. Chief Minister is with regard to the schools in Kasaragod and Majeshwar alone. Kannada is being considered as a language of the minority in Kerala State. Some concessions are being given to Kannada students. Primary Schools with a strength of 15 student in each class are being allowed to continue. But at the same time in some of the schools, these concessions are not being extended to Malayalam students. But, for Malayalam classes, they insist 25 students, because they say that Malayalam is the language of the majority and these concessions cannot be extended to those students. Malayalees predominantly live in many villages in Kasaragod and they should be given the facilities of Kannada students. With 15 as their strength those Malayalam classes should be opened in Kannada Schools.

I may submit to the Hon. Chief Minister that in the case of the areas where Kannadigas are predominant, or the minority Kannada classes are allowed with a strength of 15, the same concession may be extended to Malayalees where Kannadigas are predominant and they may be given facilities to study their own mother tongue in their own State.

Otherwise they will have to study either Kannada or discontinue their studies. This is what is happening today in Manjeshwar area. There are many L.P. Schools with Malayalam as medium of instruction. After passing Lower Primary Schools, they will have to join Kannada Schools. There is not a single Malayalam upper Primary school there. They will have to go 15 miles away or continue to study Kannada thereafter. This would be a great injustice to these people. So what I should say is that justice should be done to both Kannada students and Malayalam students and facilities should be extended to Kannadigas and Malayalees also there, because both of them form a minority in that border area. Being a minority, they should be given special consideration. This is my submission to Government and to the hon. Chief Minister. I hope that this will be examined and justice will be done to the people of that border area.

Chief Minister (Shri R. Sankar) : It is true that there was a Conference of the M. L. As. representing Malabar area and of some senior officers of the Education Department where this question was discussed. One great difference between T. C. area in Kerala and Malabar is, in all the schools in the T. C. area, the strength in classes is, if at all, very much whereas the strength in Malabar area is much below the accommodation and sometimes the strength shows a tendency to fall from year to year. I cannot exactly assign the reasons for this except that the people generally in that area or at least some parts of Malabar, do not take very seriously to schooling. Also I should think that leaders of society in Malabar area do not take as much interest in the education of the children as the leaders in T. C. area, have been taking for a very long time. It has been stated here now that these schools are run uneconomically for a number of years, even after fair trial for so many decades. If these schools still do not show that they deserve existence, I am afraid, the Government and the Department will find it difficult to maintain them. Certain principles were evolved out of the discussions which I have referred to. The principle is regarding the minimum strength in a class in this area so that it may be given a trial for another period. But that was done last year. This year after admissions, it was found that quite a number of schools do not come within the purview of economic schools. Last year these schools not only showed no progress, but their strength actually fell with the result that the Department was forced to issue notice that unless they showed improvement in the strength, the Government will have to take the drastic step of closing them down. I cannot say now exactly what strength these schools had. But I can say that the strength in these schools was low enough to be considered as uneconomic. It is well known that in T. C. area the number of children in a class varies from 26 to 50. The average is between 35 and 40. The average in many of the classes of the schools just now referred to is less than 20. In fact, unless an attempt is made to increase the strength in the schools I am afraid that Government will ultimately have to pass orders for closing down these schools. I request my friends here, particularly people who belong to the so-called backward sections not to come and plead here, that even if the strength is 5, schools should be maintained. On the other hand they should carry on propaganda among the people and persuade them to send more children to schools. It is not because there are no children in the locality, but they do not go to schools, nobody cares to go and nobody tries to persuade.

Shri Hamid Ali Shemnad : Will education be made compulsory in that area?

Shri R. Sankar : Even after closing down these schools, sufficient classes will be maintained by the Government to maintain the principle of compulsory education so that there will not be that difficulty. In some places this fall in strength has been due to too much proximity of schools also. One of them has to be closed down to get the strength in the other. The Government are examining this question and the Government will try to maintain such schools. But where some classes proved chronically uneconomic, the Government should not be found fault with after they are forced to close down. I do not want to give any other assurance than what I have just now given.

Shri Hamid Ali Shemnad : Sir, regarding Manjeshwar area which I was referring?

Shri R. Sankar : I may say that in the case of minority areas where the Kannadigas or Malayalees form the minority I will examine the question.

Financial Business

Chief Minister (Shri R. Sankar) : Sir, I lay on the Table the Supplementary Financial Statement for the year 1963-64.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

The Agricultural Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1963.

Mr. Speaker: Now we may pass on to Legislative Business.

Chief Minister (Shri R. Sankar) : Sir, this Bill was sent to the Select Committee and the Select Committee has suggested a few modifications. But since then there were some developments which made it necessary for the Government to moving some amendments. I have given notice of some such amendments.

This is a very small Bill. This amending Bill is very small and the number of amendments given notice of by me will perhaps look a little too big. Mr. E. P. Gopalan thinks that this Bill should be referred back to the Select Committee. There are others also who feel that perhaps a reconsideration by the Select Committee will be helpful. I also considered the whole matter and I am of the opinion that I have to move for a recommittal of the bill to the same Select Committee. Of course for the benefit of the Select Committee which has to sit again, I think some discussion on the subject will be useful. I would therefore invite Shri E. P. Gopalan and others to give their views so that when the Select Committee meets these discussions will be useful to them. There is not very much in it, Sir.

The original Bill was meant to provide for three or four particular things. One of them was to amend the definition of 'Agricultural Income' so as to bring it in conformity with the provision in Article 366 (1) of the Constitution. Agricultural income was to apply only to income from properties assessed, to land tax or to some local tax. That is the provision in the Constitution. But the Bill as it stood did not contain that provision. Therefore, that amendment has to be brought in.

Another thing was to provide for the slab system of payment of tax at the lower levels at a Compound rate income between Rs. 3,600 rupees and Rs. 5,000 to be the lowest slab, that between Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 6,000 to be the next slab and the third from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 7,000. This was on account of the hue and cry raised by agriculturists, particularly small agriculturists, who find it difficult to keep elaborate accounts to satisfy the officers of the department. In order to obviate these difficulties this slab system was introduced and naturally legislative sanction had to be given to it.

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